

## **APPENDICES**

### **Synopsis of Child of the Owl**

This novel tells about Casey, a twelve years old young girl who was born as a Chinese-American. She lives with Barney, her compulsive gambler father. Barney is hospitalized when he is beaten up by a bookie. Barney decides to send Casey to live with Phil, her rich uncle. By living in Phil's house, Barney hopes that Casey will get a better life. Casey's living in her uncle's house makes her feel dissatisfied. It happens because their way of life was totally different. So, Phil decides to send Casey to San Francisco's Chinatown to stay with Paw-Paw, her maternal grandmother.

Arriving in Chinatown, Casey feels completely like a stranger because she only speaks English. She never sees many Chinese in her life before. For Casey, Chinatown is the same as a new world because she knows nothing about Chinese culture or language. Paw-Paw welcomes Casey's arrival in her small apartment happily. In her new environment, Casey must attend Chinese school, eat strange Chinese food and live among people who rarely speak English.

Luckily for Casey, she has a good and kind grandmother. Paw-Paw teaches Casey patiently because she knows that it is difficult for Casey to learn many new things in her new environment. Slowly Casey learns about her family history. With time, and with help from her grandmother, her grandmother's friend

and her friend Casey feels more comfortable living in Chinatown. She no longer feels like a stranger.

One day, when Paw-Paw and Casey finished watching the movie, there is a burglar who comes into Paw-Paw's apartment. The burglar not only steals Paw-Paw's charm but also hurts Paw-Paw and makes her send to hospital. While Paw-Paw take a rest in hospital, Casey and some of her grandmother's friends go to search for the man who takes Paw-Paw's money and the owl charm. Actually, Paw-Paw recognizes the burglar but she does not tell it to anybody. She keeps it only in her mind. She does not want to hurt her grandchildren's feeling.

Casey meets Barney at The Pachinko's apartment. It was the first time she feels mad to her father. She is so disappointed because Barney does not tell her when he comes to Chinatown. Barney admits that he is the burglar who gets into the apartment. The fact that her father is the burglar makes Casey hates him. She cannot forgive him.

Different from Casey, Paw-Paw tries to understand Barney's gambling habit and his difficulty. She not only forgives Barney's bad behavior but also has a longing to help him. She decides to sell her precious charm to the museum. Although it is hard for her to sell the charm; but for Paw-Paw, helping Barney to pay all his debt is more important than anything

At the end, Barney realizes all his mistakes and Casey forgives him. He joins the gambler anonymous to get rid of the habit.

## **Biography of Laurence Yep**

Laurence Michael Yep was born on June 14, 1948 in San Francisco, California. He grows up in an African-American neighborhood where he feels like a stranger. He lives between two traditions, American and Chinese; as a result, this situation makes him never feels completely a part of either.

In 1966 Yep attended Marquette University. He was graduated from the University of California at Santa Cruz in 1970, and he received his PhD in English from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1975. Today as well as writing, he has taught writing and Asian American studies at the University of California, Berkeley and Santa Barbara.

In the novel Child of the Owl, Yep's grandmother was his inspiration to the character of Paw-Paw. Moreover, he connects his own feeling and his real life experience to the character of Casey which experiences her life in Chinatown.

His concerns are reflected in his many works by exhibiting viewpoints dealing with cultural alienation and racial conflict. He has written realistic fiction, science fiction, and fantasy for children, young adults and adults. Several of his works are: Dragonwings (1975), Child of the Owl (1977), Sea Glass (1979), The Serpent's Child (1984), Dragon's Gate (1993), Thief of Hearts (1995). Lot of his works won many prizes, and particularly Child of the Owl which won many prizes, namely Boston Globe-Horn Book Award for Fiction, School Library Journal's Best Books for Spring, New York Times Outstanding Books of the Year, Jane Addams Children's Book Award.

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